

GREEK PREFIXES

| <u>Prefix</u> | <u>Meaning</u> | <u>Examples</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <i>a-, an-</i> | not, without, (having) no | abyss, anemia |
| <i>amphi-</i> | both, on both sides of, around | amphibious |
| <i>ana-, an-</i> | up, back, again, upside down, wrong | analysis, anode |
| <i>anti-</i> | against, opposite, in answer to | antipodal, antiphony |
| <i>apo-, ap-</i> | from, off, away from | apostle, aphelion |
| <i>cata-, cat-</i> | down, against, very, bad(ly), completely | catastrophe, catholic |
| <i>dia-, di-</i> | through, across, between, apart, throughout | diameter, diocese |
| <i>dys-</i> | bad, disordered, difficult | dysentery |
| <i>ec-, ex-</i> | out, out of | ectopic, exodus |
| <i>en-, em-, el-</i> | in, into, on | energy, emblem, ellipse |
| <i>endo-, ento-, end-, ent-</i> | within | endocrine, entophyte |
| <i>epi-, ep-</i> | (up)on, to, in addition to, against, in(to), over | epidemic, epode |
| <i>eu-, ev-</i> | good, well | Eugene, evangelical |
| <i>exo-, ecto-</i> | outside, external | exotic, ectoparasite |
| <i>hyper-</i> | over, excessive | hyperactive |
| <i>hypo-, hyp-</i> | below, less than normal | hypocrite, hyphen |
| <i>meta-, met-</i> | after, changed, different, beyond | metaphor, method |
| <i>palin-</i> | backwards, again | palindrome |

| <u>Prefix</u> | <u>Meaning</u> | <u>Examples</u> |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>para-, par-</i> | beside, alongside, related to; disordered, sideways, wrong, contrary to, different (from) | paranoid, parody |
| <i>peri-</i> | around, near | perigee |
| <i>pro-</i> | before, in front of | proscenium |
| <i>pros-</i> | toward, in addition to | prosthetic |
| <i>syn-, sym-, syl-, sy-</i> | with, together, same | synonym, sympathy, syllable, system |

Some Similarities Between Greek and Latin Prefixes

| <u>Greek</u> | <u>Latin</u> | <u>English</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>a(n)</i> | <i>in</i> | un | not |
| <i>apo</i> | <i>a(b)</i> | (of, off) | away from |
| <i>amphi</i> | <i>ambi</i> | | on both sides |
| <i>en</i> | <i>in</i> | in | in, into |
| <i>ek</i> | <i>e(x)</i> | | out of |
| <i>hyper</i> | <i>super</i> | | above |
| <i>pro</i> | <i>pro, pre</i> | (for) | in front of |
| <i>syn</i> | <i>con</i> | | with |

Compare the following linguistically related Greek and Latin prefixes:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>apo</i> | <i>ab/a/abs</i> | away from |
| <i>amphi</i> | <i>ambi</i> | around, on both sides |
| <i>ec/ex</i> | <i>ex/e/ef</i> | out of |
| <i>exo/ecto</i> | <i>extra/extro</i> | outside |
| <i>en/em/el</i> | <i>in</i> | in (cognate) |
| <i>a/an</i> | <i>in</i> | un (cognate) |
| <i>endo/ento</i> | <i>intra/intro</i> | inside |
| <i>pro</i> | <i>pro</i> | in front of |
| <i>hyper</i> | <i>super</i> | above |
| <i>hypo</i> | <i>sub/sus, etc.</i> | under |

("h" and "s" are linguistically related as the last two entries show)

The following are not related, but are worth comparing:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|
| <i>peri</i> | <i>circum</i> | around |
| <i>syn/sym</i> , etc. | <i>con/co</i> , etc. | with |

Be sure not to confuse:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--|
| <i>anti</i> (Greek "against") | and | <i>ante</i> (Latin "before") |
| <i>a/an</i> (Greek "not") | and | <i>ab/a/abs</i> (Latin "away from") |
| <i>dys</i> (Greek "bad, disordered") | and | <i>dis</i> (Latin "apart, in different directions, not") |

In almost every case, Latin prefixes are used with Latin bases and Greek prefixes are used with Greek bases. But we will run across hybrids from time to time, so stay alert!

GREEK SUFFIXES

These are the most important English suffixes derived from Greek. They are arranged by usage (adjective-forming, verb-forming, noun-forming).

ADJECTIVE-FORMING SUFFIXES

"pertaining to, like"

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------|
| -(i)ac | pertaining to, like | cardiac |
| -al | pertaining to, like, belonging to, having the character of | ideal |
| -(i)an | pertaining to, like, one concerned with | barbarian |
| -(t)ic | pertaining to, like | barbaric |
| -(i)ous | pertaining to, like, full of | barbarous |
| -oid | like, having the shape of | asteroid |

VERB-FORMING SUFFIXES

"to make"

| | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| -ize | to make, to do something with, to subject to | hypothesize |
|------|---|-------------|

NOUN-FORMING SUFFIXES

"result of, state of"

| | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| -m(e), -ma(t)- | result of, thing that is the result of | scheme, phlegm |
| -sis, -se, -sy, -sia | act of, state of, result of | thesis, heresy |
| -y (-ia) | quality of, state of, act of, condition of | polyandry |

"writing"

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------|
| -gram | thing written | pentagram |
| -graph | writing, instrument for writing | phonograph |
| -graphy | writing, art or science of writing | biography |

"one who does"

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| -(a)st | one who does | dynast |
| -ician | specialist in, practitioner of | mathematician |
| -ite, -ot(e) | one connected with, inhabitant of | sodomite, patriot |
| -t(e) | one who, that which | neophyte |

"belief in"

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| -ism | belief in, practice of, condition of | atheism |
| -ist | one who believes in, one engaged in | Platonist |

"one who rules"

| | | |
|-------|--|------------|
| -arch | one who rules | patriarch |
| -crat | one who advocates or practices rule by | bureaucrat |

"rule by"

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| -archy | rule by | matriarchy |
| -cracy | rule by, type of government | aristocracy |

"group of"

| | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| -ad | group of (number) | triad |
|-----|-------------------|-------|

Scientific Suffixes

"science of"

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| -(t)ics | art, science, system or study of | mathematics |
| -log(y) | science of, systematic study of | philology |
| -nom(y) | science of, system of laws governing | astronomy |
| -metr(y) | art or science of measuring | chronometry |

"little" (diminutive)

| | | |
|---------------|--------|---------------------|
| -arium,-arion | little | conarium, Hipparion |
| -idium | little | antheridium |
| -ium, -ion | little | bacterium, asterion |
| -isk, -iscus | little | basilisk, meniscus |

Other Scientific Suffixes

| | | |
|---------|--|----------------------|
| -in(e) | chemical substance | melanin, chlorine |
| -hedron | solid figure with a (specified) number of faces | dodecahedron |
| -meter | measure, instrument for measuring, number of feet in poetry | barometer, hexameter |
| -ploid | "-fold" | diploid ("twofold") |
| -scope | instrument for viewing, to view | otoscope |

Medical Suffixes

"surgical removal of"

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------|
| -ectomy | surgical removal of ("act of cutting out") | vasectomy |
| -tomy | surgical operation on, surgical cutting of | lobotomy |

"disease"

| | | |
|--------|---|------------|
| -path | one who suffers from a disease of, one who treats a disease | psychopath |
| -pathy | disease of, treatment of disease of or by | otopathy |

"madness"

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| -mania | madness about, passion for | pyromania |
| -maniac | one having a madness or passion for | nymphomaniac |

"fear"

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| -phobia | abnormal fear or hatred of | arachnophobia |
| -phobe | one who fears or hates (abnormally) | homophobe |

Other Medical Suffixes

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------|
| -emia | condition of the blood, congestion of blood in | septicemia |
| -iasis | diseased condition (often caused by parasites) | hypochondriasis |
| -itis | inflammation of, inflammatory disease of | colitis |
| -ium | part, lining or enveloping tissue, region | pericardium |
| -oma | tumor of, swelling containing, diseased | carcinoma |
| -osis | condition of, result of | halitosis |
| -rrh(o)ea | diseased condition of, act of, process of | logorrhea |
| -therapy | abnormal discharge | electrotherapy |
| | treatment of or by | |